

Pathways to Education Halifax Spryfield Area Backgrounder

About the Spryfield area:

Spryfield is a historic area located in Halifax's eastern Chebucto Peninsula. The Spryfield area includes the communities along Herring Cove Road and nearby streets and some neighbourhoods struggle with poverty. There are more than 4,000 residents in the Spryfield area with a higher than average proportion of low-income families, children and youth.

Spryfield is a resource-rich community with many active and engaged residents. However, the community also wrestles with socio-economic issues related to poverty, high unemployment and low education attainment in some areas. Other youth issues include, lack of access to transportation and after school programming, and higher than average high school dropout rates.

Why Spryfield area:

The Spryfield area local youth and families cited a range of barriers to academic success, including:

- Just over 100 students from the Spryfield area enter grade 10 each year - of these students, 46 per cent do not graduate from high school
- Chebucto Connections' Action for Neighbourhood Change study identified that parents are concerned with the number of kids not finishing high school, getting into trouble with the law, using weapons, abusing drugs and becoming pregnant at a young age
- Youth said they wanted a quieter place to do homework, with a young adult there to supervise – a place where there would be textbooks, someone to help them with their homework, a place to hang out, and things to do

The Spryfield Pathways to Education Program is partnering with Chebucto Connections to deliver the program. Chebucto Connections is a local Spryfield area organization whose purpose is to help residents, their associations and their communities achieve their full potential. Pathways also partners with parents, youth, many community organizations including the United Way, Spryfield and District Business Commission and the JL Ilsley High School.

Pathways in Spryfield

The Spryfield Pathways to Education Program is offered through an alliance between Chebucto Connections and Pathways Canada. In the first year of the program, approximately 90 students will be eligible to participate in the program.

Host agency: Chebucto Connections
52, 16 Dentith Road
Tel: 477 - 0964
Executive Director: Marjorie Willison

**Pathways
Program Director:** Kevin Young

Boundaries: The catchment area of the Spryfield Pathways program is along the central core of the Spryfield area, including Cowie Hill at one end and Green Acres at the other end

**Area Dropout Rate
(pre-Pathways):**

46 per cent (J.L. Ilsley High School data 2003 - 2006)

About Pathways to Education Canada – www.pathwaystoeducation.ca

Pathways to Education Canada is a community-based charitable organization that is reducing poverty and its effects by lowering the dropout rate and increasing access to post-secondary education among youth in disadvantaged communities. Pathways was developed by the Regent Park Community Health Centre which launched the initial program in 2001 and now operates in eight communities, with programs in Toronto (Regent Park, Lawrence Heights, Rexdale and Scarborough) well as Kitchener, Ottawa, Montreal and Hamilton.

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For more information, please contact:

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